



THE CONNECTION

Economic Development and Our Community

*Alternative Data Sources
for Labor Market Studies*

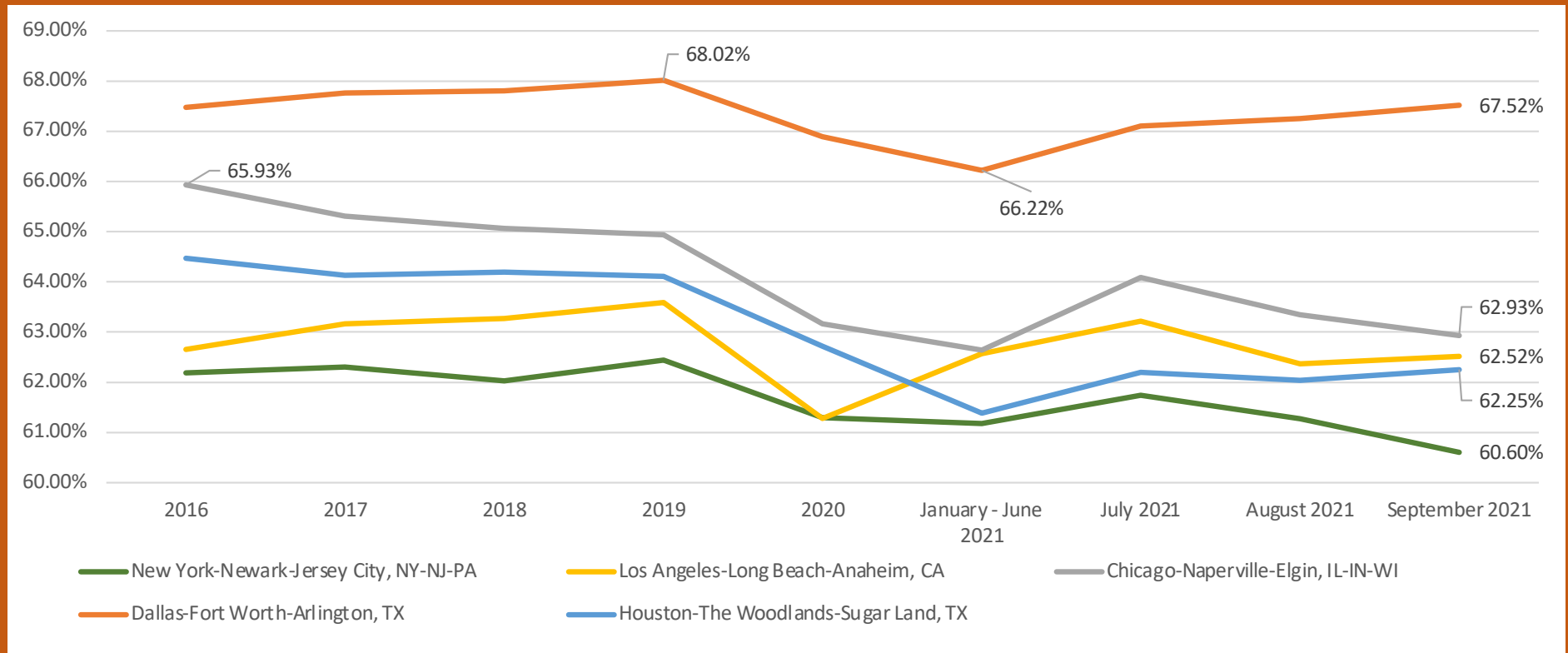
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What are alternative data sources?

When studying a regional market, it is important to understand all the statistics and resources that are available to you as a researcher or economic developer. This report is designed to highlight some of the more obscure statistics that have been requested from our community partners and how they might be useful for understanding labor trends.

- **Labor Force Participation Rate:** An increasingly popular alternative to the unemployment rate which evaluates how much of the working-aged population is engaged in the labor market.
- **Commuting Patterns:** Identifying key flows of workers in and out of a specific region to identify where an area's workers come from and where their residents go for work.
- **Migration Trends:** Mapping the flow of residents from one county to another – both within and outside of Texas.

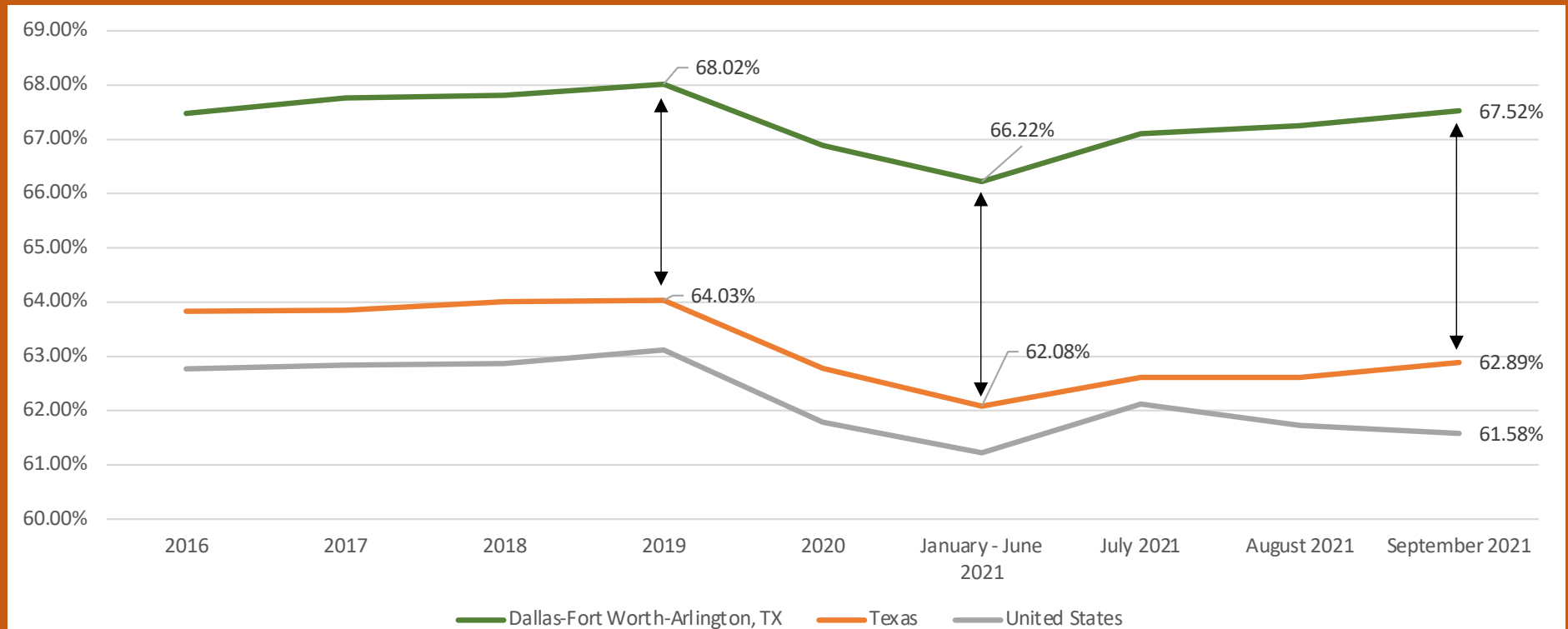
Labor Force Participation: Top Five Metropolitan Areas



Compared to the other top five largest MSA's in the country, DFW has the most engaged workforce both before and after the pandemic.

The largest decline for DFW was felt in early 2021, when the Labor Force Participation Rate fell to almost 66.2%. Even this lowest point was still above the pre-pandemic peak for the next most engaged MSA, Chicago, in 2016.

Labor Force Participation: DFW vs. TX vs. USA



The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex is consistently higher than the State and National Labor Force Participation Rate – with the Texas average being around 4-5% lower than the DFW at any given time since 2016.

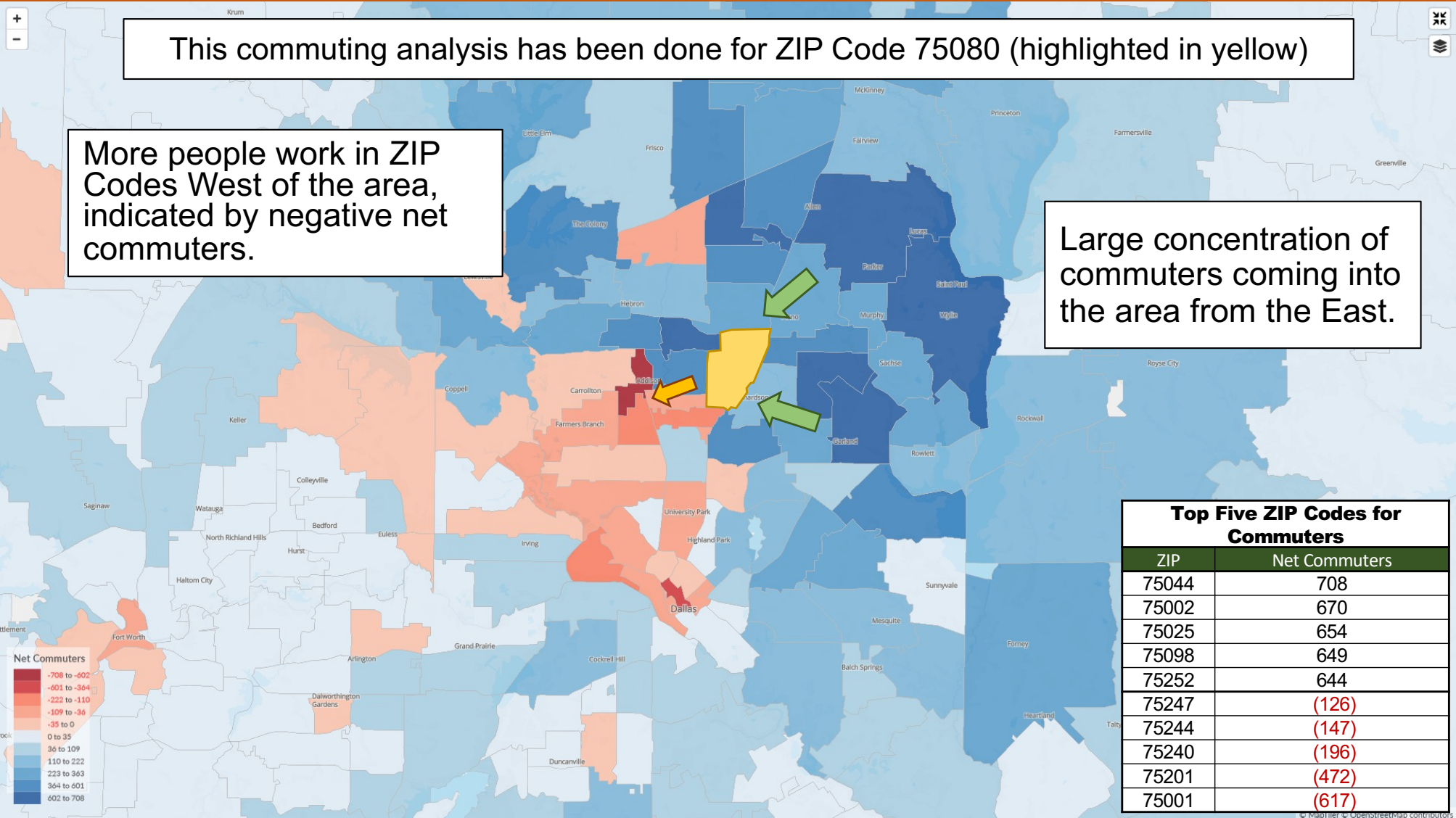
This supports the idea that the region has strong workforce engagement, which can be further investigated by evaluating more traditional labor data like wages or cost-of-living statistics.

Commuting Analysis for ZIP Codes

This commuting analysis has been done for ZIP Code 75080 (highlighted in yellow)

More people work in ZIP Codes West of the area, indicated by negative net commuters.

Large concentration of commuters coming into the area from the East.



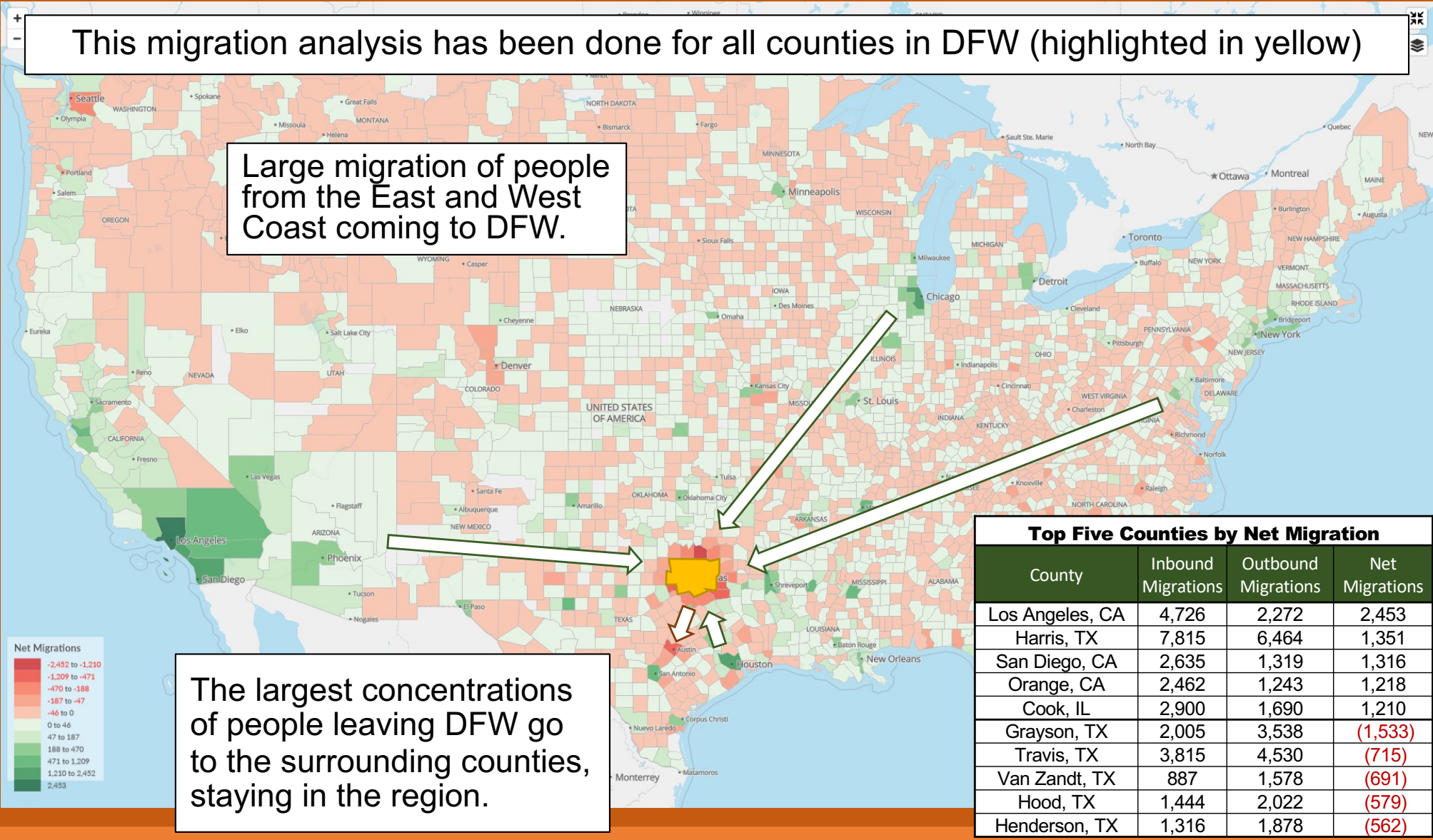
Top Five ZIP Codes for Commuters	
ZIP	Net Commuters
75044	708
75002	670
75025	654
75098	649
75252	644
75247	(126)
75244	(147)
75240	(196)
75201	(472)
75001	(617)

Migration Trends – DFW

This migration analysis has been done for all counties in DFW (highlighted in yellow)

Large migration of people from the East and West Coast coming to DFW.

The largest concentrations of people leaving DFW go to the surrounding counties, staying in the region.



Top Five Counties by Net Migration			
County	Inbound Migrations	Outbound Migrations	Net Migrations
Los Angeles, CA	4,726	2,272	2,453
Harris, TX	7,815	6,464	1,351
San Diego, CA	2,635	1,319	1,316
Orange, CA	2,462	1,243	1,218
Cook, IL	2,900	1,690	1,210
Grayson, TX	2,005	3,538	(1,533)
Travis, TX	3,815	4,530	(715)
Van Zandt, TX	887	1,578	(691)
Hood, TX	1,444	2,022	(579)
Henderson, TX	1,316	1,878	(562)

Questions or Comments?

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